

**OPENING STATEMENT: FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP ON
COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT PLAN
REP. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON (R-CA),
SENIOR REPUBLICAN MEMBER
EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 14, 2007**

Mr. Chairman, I intend to join you in support of this oversight plan, and I thank you and your staff for working with Committee Republicans and our staff to address any concerns we had at the outset of this process.

This Committee has a healthy history of oversight activities. In the last Congress alone, we conducted substantial oversight on the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, on our nation's mine safety laws, on the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and corresponding pension laws, and on Head Start programs, just to name a few.

These oversight activities not only serve the interests of the students, workers, and retirees who depend upon many of the programs within our Committee's jurisdiction, but it serves the interests of taxpayers who fund them as well.

Mr. Chairman, I noted in our Committee organizational meeting that I believe our goal in this room is not a Republican goal or a Democrat goal – but a shared goal. We're working with each other –

and occasionally, against each other as well – to craft fiscally responsible reforms for students, workers, and retirees. I believe this oversight plan will provide us a framework in which to do that, and I urge my colleagues to join me in adopting it.

#####